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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois comprises part of the
3 largest urban landscape market in the country with more than 4
4 million urban ash trees; Illinois' tree canopy now faces a
5 crisis due to the Emerald Ash Borer, and that will lead to a
6 financial crisis for the State and its many municipalities; and

7 WHEREAS, Mature trees provide homeowners and
8 municipalities tremendous environmental and economic benefits;
9 trees reduce energy costs in the summer, play a role in
10 rainwater management, and filter air; trees represent a
11 quantifiable value to homeowners; conservatively 5 percent of a
12 home's value is attributable to the trees on its property; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is now infested with the
14 invasive species known as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB); most all
15 urban ash trees in the State of Illinois will be exposed to EAB
16 in the next 5 years and every ash tree not treated will expire
17 shortly thereafter; and

18 WHEREAS, The average cost of tree removal and replacement
19 in the State of Illinois is approximately \$1,000; this crisis
20 will cost the State and its villages, towns, and cities \$3
21 billion to \$4 billion over the next several years; and

1 WHEREAS, Trees can be treated for a fraction of the cost of
2 removal and replacement; and

3 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois needs to update its
4 understanding of the science of treating EAB, as integrated
5 management of EAB has evolved and improved greatly in the past
6 5 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Leading academic researchers from The University
8 of Illinois, Michigan State University, Purdue University and
9 Ohio State have found insecticide treatment methods to be
10 effective, and one treatment method to be extremely effective
11 at preserving ash trees; and

12 WHEREAS, The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), the
13 prestigious professional organization of practicing arborists,
14 published in May 2012 its latest findings and recommendations
15 on the management of the Emerald Ash Borer; the SMA paper warns
16 municipalities of a "financial tsunami" if they are not
17 proactive and develop an EAB management paper; and

18 WHEREAS, The SMA found that the 2 extremes of removing
19 trees and doing nothing is neither practical nor prudent;
20 removing trees is not financially viable for many
21 municipalities and does great harm to home values; doing
22 nothing puts people and property at great risk as dead trees

1 will come crashing down in an unpredictable fashion; and

2 WHEREAS, The SMA found that an integrated approach that
3 utilizes treatment along with the removal of low-grade ash
4 trees is the best management option; and

5 WHEREAS, The International Society Arboriculture, the
6 premier tree care organization in the world, supports the
7 findings and recommendations of the SMA that advocates
8 conservation of the urban ash canopy as the most prudent and
9 practical management option; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge every village,
12 town, and city within the State of Illinois to reevaluate its
13 EAB management plan in light of the latest facts and
14 recommendations presented by the leading experts in the spring
15 of 2012; specifically, municipalities should spend the little
16 time required to evaluate EAB management options over a 20-year
17 period utilizing readily available and online economic models
18 from either University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point or Purdue
19 University; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Agriculture
21 should publicly communicate and include on its website
22 <http://www.agr.state.il.us> the 2012 EAB Management approach

1 and explain the financial and environmental benefits to
2 municipalities, citizens, and homeowners of that same
3 approach.